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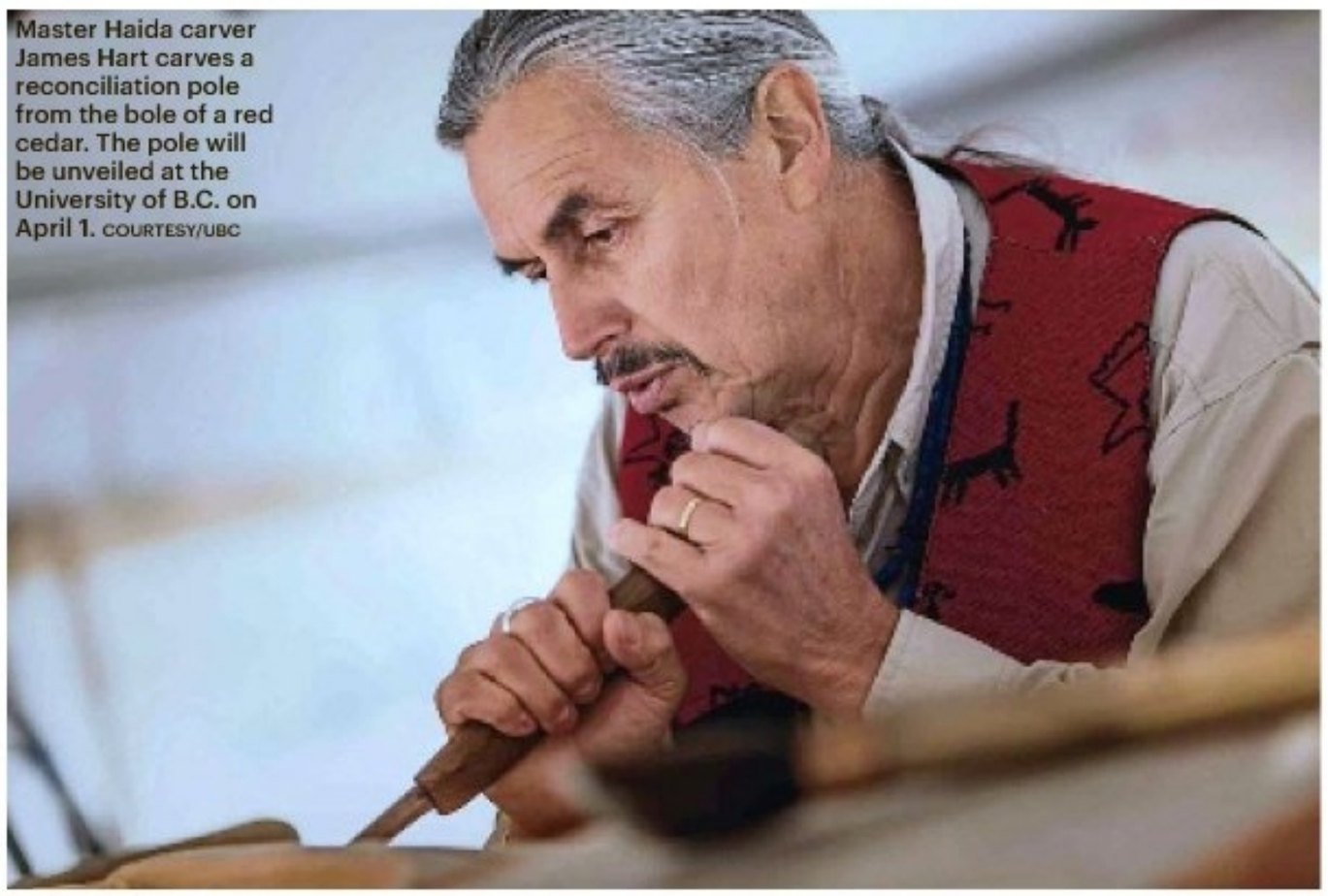
Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, MARCH 31-APRIL 2, 2017 | High 10°C/Low 6°C Sun and cloud

FOCUS ON FAMINE

'These aren't unsolvable problems.'

Canadian Katherine Clark on the situation in Nigeria,

metroNEWS



Master Haida carver James Hart carves a reconciliation pole from the bole of a red cedar. The pole will be unveiled at the University of B.C. on April 1. COURTESY/UBC

Special prosecutor appointed to B.C. donations probe

INVESTIGATION

RCMP will get legal advice as it looks into indirect political contributions

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

A special prosecutor has been appointed as police continue to investigate alleged illegal political contributions in British Columbia.

The Criminal Justice Branch announced Thursday that special prosecutor David Butcher will provide legal advice to the RCMP as it looks into indirect political contributions and possible BC Election Act violations.

Elections BC first launched an investigation following the publication of a Globe and Mail story alleging some lobbyists were being illegally repaid by clients for making personal donations — a practice that is against the law.

Democracy Watch co-founder Duff Conacher applauded Butcher's appointment.

"It's a good first step," Conacher, who has been critical of the province's lax election financing rules, told Metro. "Now I think anyone that took part should be prosecuted. There is no valid reason for them not to be if they were making illegal donations. No one should be left off the hook."

In light of the controversy, Conacher has called on all political parties and Elections BC to regularly audit donations.

Speaking to Metro earlier this month, Chief Electoral Officer Keith Archer said the alleged scheme "runs counter to the very foundation of our political contribution disclosure system, which is to make transparent who is contributing to the political parties here in B.C."

The BC Liberal Party has promised to pay back $93,000 in donations and said it is transparent about the donations it receives by publicly posting them within 10 days.

Premier Christy Clark's main rival in the May 9 election is hoping the ongoing scandal, and larger debate about political donations in B.C., turns into a major issue for voters. "Christy Clark had every opportunity to clean up the wild west of political cash," Horgan said Thursday. "Instead of siding with British Columbians ... she chose yet again to protect her rich donors."

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Carving out the history of Canada's residential schools

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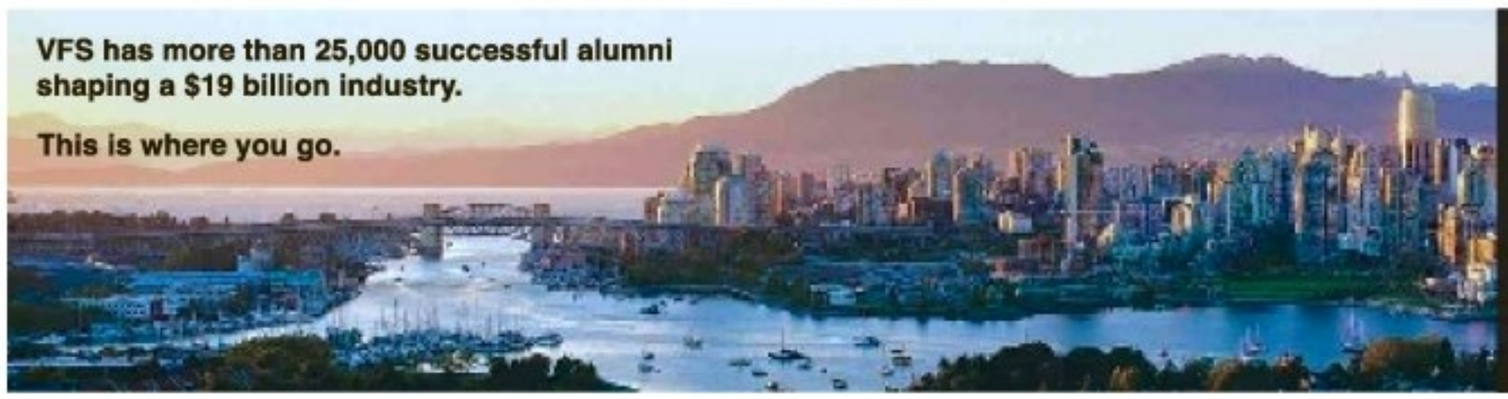

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metro NEWS
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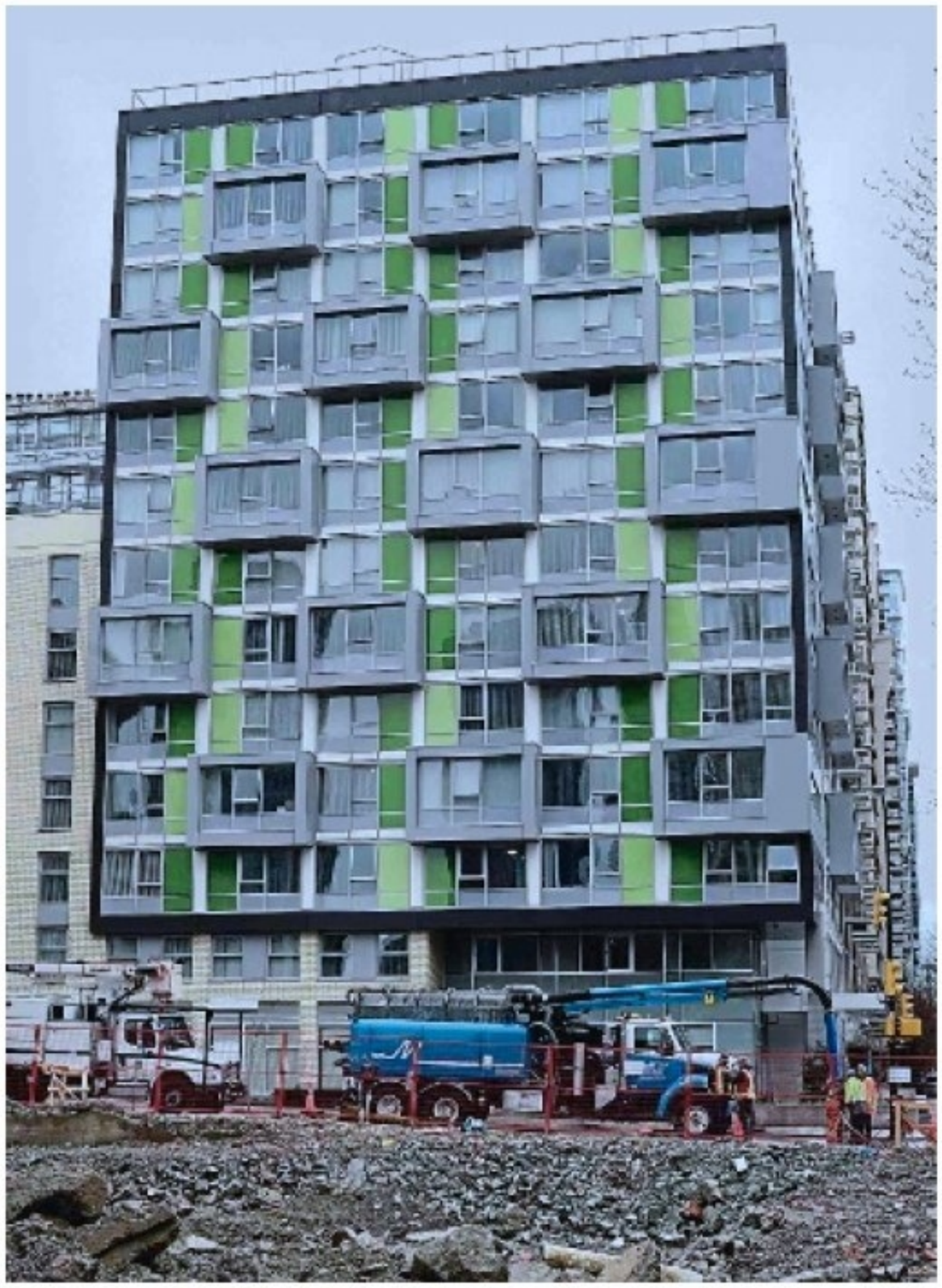

Jubilee House at 1099 Richards St. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

Shockingly high 'affordable' rent

NEW JUBILEE HOUSE

Why 'low end' units are being advertised for $1,500-$1,700

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

Among the many questions raised about a complicated Yaletown land swap between the City of Vancouver and Brenhill Developments is why 500-square-foot "low end of market" rental units are now being advertised for between $1,500 and $1,700 on Craigslist.

The deal has been under the microscope since March 13, when NDP MLA David Eby raised questions in the legislature about BC Housing's involvement in the arrangement.

The city previously told Metro that it had no say in how rent is set after the first batch of tenants move in. But that is not correct, Metro has learned, and the city has now confirmed.

The city has a long-term agreement with the housing operator, a non-profit called 127 Society, and the two organizations worked together to set the rent rates.

The new social-housing building was completed in July 2016 and replaced an 87-unit social-housing building that 127 Society had operated at 508 Helmcken St., next to Emery Barnes Park in Yaletown.

In 2012, the City of Vancouver and Brenhill agreed to swap 508 Helmcken St., which the city owned, with 1099 Richards St., which Brenhill owned. The city rezoned 508 Helmcken St. so Brenhill could build a condo tower.

As part of the deal, Brenhill was to build a replacement social-housing building that would contain 87 replacement low-income units, as well as 75 market rental units.

In a planning report prepared by the city, those 75 rental units were supposed to be affordable to "residents who have incomes higher than those on welfare or old-age security but may struggle to find or afford market rental housing." The report says rents will probably be around $1,164 a month. In 2016, the average one-bedroom rent for downtown Vancouver was $1,434.

That calculation has since changed, communications staffer Tobin Postma wrote in an email to Metro.

(Metro has asked the city several times for an interview with housing planning staff who were directly involved in the deal, but has never been granted one).

Postma said the original calculation used Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's average rent as the base. He said it's common to use that measure before rental units have been built and appraised.

Based on that market appraisal, the city is now comparing the rate to the average rent of a newly built rental apartment in Yaletown: $1,700 a month. Based on that measure, these are considered affordable units, the city says.

Rent or mortgage payments are considered affordable if they take up no more than 30 per cent of annual income. Therefore, tenants of New Jubilee House would have to earn at least $60,000 in order for $1,500 to be considered "affordable."

New Jubilee House is expected to use the market rents to help pay for the operations of the subsidized portion of the building.

Metro learned from BC Housing that 20 people were moved from the Quality Inn (which was used as emergency housing following a months-long tent city occupation of Oppenheimer Park in 2014) to New Jubilee House. That means that more of the units are currently being devoted to social-assistance-rate rents — although, Postma said, the goal is to gradually return the building to 87 units of social housing and 75 units of "affordable" market rental.

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SQUAMISH NATION HONOURING MOTHER NATURE Members of the Squamish Nation held a ceremony at Oppenheimer Park yesterday to plant a red cedar in honour of two trees that were accidentally removed from the park. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Safety barriers for bus drivers roll in

TRANSIT

More than 200 vehicles will be retrofitted for protection

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Edmonton

All new buses in TransLink's fleet will soon come with an extra layer of protection for drivers.

Coast Mountain Bus Company announced Thursday that it is moving ahead with safety barriers for operators after test driving a number of potential options over the last two years.

Starting next year, all new buses ordered by TransLink will come installed with the barriers — at a cost of $5,000 per barrier — and more than 200 air-conditioned buses in the existing fleet will be retrofitted with the protective structure.

"This whole issue is driven by safety," said Haydn Acheson, president of Coast Mountain Bus Company.

"Operator safety by far, of course, is No. 1. But, of course, when they're driving the buses and get assaulted, it puts passengers in jeopardy as well as the public outside on the road. This covers off all areas."

> **"This whole issue is driven by safety.**
> Haydn Acheson

Before settling on a final design and manufacturer, Acheson said a half dozen buses were equipped with various barriers and tested over the last two years with help from the bus drivers union, WorkSafe and BC Transit.

Acheson said there were a number of problems with some of the designs tested, including glare, uncomfortable heat in warm weather and difficulty communicating with passengers.

The final pick, which rectified many of those issues, is already used by transit systems in Las Vegas and New York, but the system isn't ideal for non-air conditioned vehicles.

"Heat tends to get trapped in the summertime up in the front," said Acheson.

TransLink expects to be ordering 100 to 120 new buses a year as part of its ongoing modernization program and as part of the mayors' Phase One transit expansion plan.

Although trolley buses aren't air conditioned, Acheson said CMBC will also install barriers on some of them this year on a trial basis.

OPIOID CRISIS

Vancouver hits overdose milestone

Jeff Hodson
Metro | Vancouver

One hundred people have died from suspected overdoses in Vancouver in the first three months of 2017.

The death rate puts the city on pace for 400 deaths this year, almost double the 215 people who died of suspected overdoses in 2016 when the public health crisis was declared.

Firefighters in Vancouver were called to 162 overdoses last week, an increase of 56 per cent over the 104 calls the previous week, the city said in a press release Thursday.

Five people died last week from suspected overdoses, bringing the total number of people who have died to 100.

"It's abominable that with 100 overdose deaths already this year in Vancouver — almost half of 2016's total — we have yet to see effective action from the provincial and federal governments on health-care solutions that will stop the death toll in this fentanyl crisis," said Mayor Gregor Robertson in the release.

"Overdose death totals have long surpassed horrific levels, and the B.C. Government urgently needs to spend the $10 million received from the federal government before yet another hundred families are impacted by tragic and preventable deaths."

In 2016, 922 people died in B.C. from overdoses due to the deadly synthetic opioid fentanyl being mixed in street drugs. About a quarter of all deaths were in Vancouver.

The city is calling for the expansion of the Injectable Opioid Assisted Therapy to another 450 people. The Crosstown clinic offers the lifesaving treatment to 140 people.

The city also wants $8 million of the $10 million in federal funding to go toward injectable therapy and psycho-social supports for patients in Vancouver.

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Spring Pinks

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'I am to blame,' says tearful drunk driver

COURTS

Samuel Alec apologizes to loved ones of three victims

A drunk driver wept in a British Columbia courtroom as he turned to face the families of the three men he killed, telling them he takes full responsibility for the loss of their loved ones.

Holding an eagle feather in one hand, Samuel Alec told the families of Kelly Blunden, Ross Chafe and Paul Pierre that he will never be able to make up for the pain and suffering he has caused after driving into a pair of cyclists on a winding mountain road northeast of Whistler, B.C.

"I know I am to blame and I take full responsibility for my actions. I am sorry for what I have done," Alec said Thursday in B.C. Supreme Court, his voice breaking and his breathing laboured.

"I ask myself what had become of my judgment, my common sense, my willpower. Why could I not see that drink meant ruin to me?

"This is by far the biggest mistake I have ever made," he said, starting to sob. "I apologize. I am sorry."

Alec, 45, pleaded guilty last month to three counts of impaired driving causing death after he mowed down Blunden and Chafe, who were out for a weekend ride in May 2015. Alec's good friend Pierre was a passenger in the vehicle and also died in the collision. In an agreed statement of facts, the court heard Alec was heading home to Lillooet along Highway 99, a popular route for cyclists, after a "lengthy binge of drinking" following a friend's funeral in Pemberton.

Crown counsel is expected to deliver a brief reply Friday morning, after which the judge said he would reserve his decision on sentencing until April 28.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fifty-year-old Ross Chafe, right, and Kelly Blunden, 53, were killed in May 2015 on Highway 99 near Pemberton. FACEBOOK

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MV MARATHASSA

10 charges laid in English Bay oil spill

Charges have been laid against the owners of the MV Marathassa nearly two years after a leak of bunker fuel fouled the beaches of English Bay in Vancouver, but the company is trying to scuttle the case.

Documents filed in British Columbia's provincial court show the Marathassa and Greece-based Alassia NewShips Management Inc. face a total of 10 charges including discharge of a pollutant, unlawful disposal of a substance and failure to implement an oil pollution emergency plan.

The company is also accused of depositing a deleterious substance in a way that may have allowed it to reach waters frequented by fish, as well as depositing a substance harmful to migratory birds.

In all, six charges have been laid under Canadian shipping legislation, two relate to alleged Fisheries Act violations and single charges linked to alleged violations of federal environmental laws and the Migratory Bird Act.

None of the allegations have been tested in court.

At least 2,700 litres of bunker fuel spilled on April 8, 2015, while the Cypriot-registered vessel was moored in English Bay. The ensuing miscommunication among Canadian authorities and delays in cleanup raised questions about Canada's preparedness for oil spills at a time when the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion was being hotly debated.

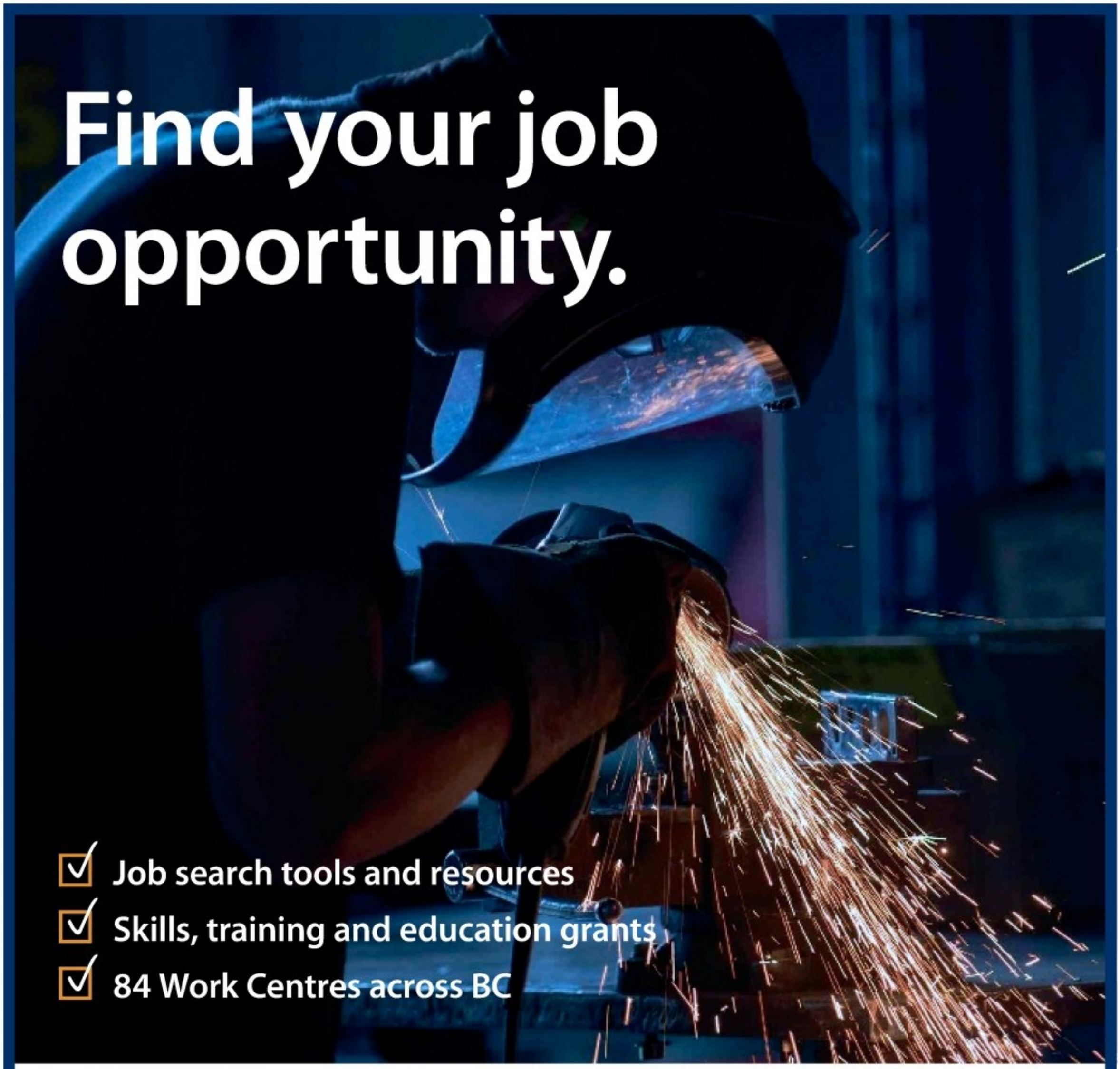
A provincial court date has been set for Wednesday, but Alassia is attempting to stop the proceedings with an application for a judicial review filed in Federal Court. The company will ask the Federal Court on Tuesday to stop the provincial court hearing from taking place until a judicial review has been heard.

In court documents, it says summonses in the case were invalid because they were served to a Canadian insurance adjuster and a ship captain who has only worked for Alassia on two fixed contracts.

Alassia argues that Canadian law requires summonses to be delivered to an executive officer of a corporation or a branch, and that neither the insurance adjuster or the captain fit that description.

"This is a serious issue to be tried in that it is doubtful that either attempt to serve the applicant was valid," the company's Vancouver-based lawyer Peter Swanson says in court documents. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A spill response boat monitors a boom placed around the bulk carrier cargo ship Marathassa after a bunker fuel spill on Burrard Inlet on April 9, 2015. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Auditor general blasts social housing sell-off

ASSETS

Sale could lead to higher rent, fewer units as need still grows

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

B.C.'s auditor general is taking the provincial government to task for selling off social housing properties for short-term gain, but not taking into account the long-term consequences.

Those outcomes could include rising rents, fewer affordable housing units or entire buildings being converted into market rental buildings, even as demand for low-income housing continues to outstrip supply.

"(The province) hasn't fully considered how selling the lands and buildings could affect affordability and availability," said Carol Bellringer during a press conference on March 30.

Bellringer noted that while the asset sale is expected to generate $500 million by the 2017–2018 fiscal year, the government will end up paying $1 billion over the next 35 years because it has made agreements to help non-profit housing societies pay for the mortgages on properties they have bought from the province.

That $500 million is being reinvested now into new and existing social housing units. But Bellringer said the government had failed to make a long-term business case for the program, explain what problem it was fixing or demonstrate that the asset sale program will make social housing more sustainable in the future.

Stamps Place social housing at 400 Campbell Ave. PHOTOS BY JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

In fact, government withheld information about that business case, stating that the information falls under public interest immunity — a legal principle meaning the keeping the information confidential outweighs public interest in having it released. Bellringer does not agree that public immunity should apply to this information.

"One of the disturbing outcomes we saw almost immediately was that non-profit associations were being told by the government and BC Housing that if they wanted to cover maintenance costs, they needed to raise the rents as units became vacant," said David Eby, the NDP's housing critic, of the asset sale program.

Eby said asset sale makes sense in some instances, such as when a non-profit housing provider owns the building on the site but not the land, and owning the land could allow the non-profit to redevelop the site.

But as a wholesale sell-off: "If the market turns or the costs go up in terms of maintenance that this government has to bear five years from now or 10 years from now, this government will be long gone. They've mortgaged the future for a photo-op today," Eby said, referring to the dozens of pre-election press conferences the province has held for new social housing funded by the asset sales in the lead-up to the May 9 provincial election.

Bellringer also called out BC Housing for poorly documenting and being unable to fully explain the rationale for transferring two Vancouver properties, Stamps Place and Nicholson Tower, to proponents New Chelsea Society and The Bloom Group. Meetings were held in camera, no records of decisions were kept, and assessment and selection processes were conducted verbally.

> **They've mortgaged the future for a photo-op today.**
> David Eby

There is a movement away from rent-geared-to-income housing — the only formula that guarantees people won't pay more than 30 per cent of their income towards housing — to measures like "low end of rental" and rental assistance for private market rental. There needs to be a better assessment of how a reduction in rent-geared-to-income units will affect people who need social housing, Bellringer said.

She is also recommending the province establish how the asset program's outcomes for non-profit housing societies will be achieved and monitored, and that BC Housing better document its decisions.

Rich Coleman, BC's minister responsible for housing, said work is already underway to better document the assessment of non-profit providers' ability to meet program outcomes, and government will consider the rest of the recommendations.

WILDLIFE

Most of rural B.C. against grizzly hunt

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

Three in four people in rural British Columbia oppose the trophy grizzly hunt despite having strong hunting traditions, according to a poll by Insights West.

The poll, conducted on behalf of the Commercial Bear Viewing Association, found there was no urban-rural divide on the idea of hunting grizzly bears for sport.

Five rural ridings were surveyed in a telephone study in January and pollsters found those communities, Kamloops North Thompson (81 per cent), Boundary Similkameen (79 per cent), Fraser Nicola (78 per cent), Cariboo North (66 per cent), Kootenay East (65 per cent) oppose the grizzly-bear trophy hunting.

The B.C. NDP has promised to ban the practice if they win next month's provincial election. Most British Columbians support that idea, said Julius Strauss with the Commercial Bear Viewing Association. The association represents the interest of bear-viewing companies in B.C.

"This poll categorically shows that there is no urban-rural divide on the issue of grizzly trophy hunting, something that has been asserted endlessly by politicians," he said.

"British Columbians want an end to trophy hunting by a clear majority, even in deeply rural ridings with strong hunting traditions. It's time government policy reflected that reality."

A 2015 Insights West survey found 91 per cent of people in B.C. opposed trophy hunting in general.

This latest survey found 74 per cent of people in rural B.C. oppose trophy hunting grizzly bears.

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Capilano jazz nets numerous nods

JUNO AWARDS

Genre reflects 'triumph of humanity over oppression'

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Could jazz help break down some of the walls being raised — literally and metaphorically — in the Donald Trump era?

As Canada honours its finest musicians this Sunday with the annual Juno Awards, a plethora of graduates and teachers at a local jazz school are set to hit the red carpet in Ottawa.

And the co-ordinator of Jazz Studies at Capilano University believes the genre has the power to inspire serious change.

"Jazz is about the triumph of oppressed people," explained Jared Burrows in a phone interview. "African-Americans invented this music in the face of tremendous oppression; out of enslavement, these human beings were able to create this incredible art form.

"The triumph of humanity over oppression is the root of jazz. When people are confronted with situations that seem impossible or unsolvable, there's nothing else you can do except improvise, to react in a very personal and immediate way to the circumstances in which you find yourself."

Seven graduates of the program, as well as two of his fellow instructors, are up for award nods this year. One of them is Bria Skonberg, 36, who is nominated for Vocal Jazz Album of the Year. She's not even alone in that category: fellow grad Amanda Tosoff is also nominated. The two were once roommates.

Bria Skonberg is nominated for Vocal Jazz Album of the Year.
COURTESY CAROLINA PALMGREN/CAPILANO UNIVERSITY

"Honestly (the nomination) came out of left field," the Chilliwack singer said in a phone interview. "I got an email from a friend in B.C. who said, 'Congratulations!' I was like, 'For what?!'

"What's really exciting about it, for me, is my first college roommate and I are nominated in the same category. It sounds cheesy, but I feel we've won already."

Beyond jazz, Burrows' fellow CapU faculty member Warren Dean Flandez — who teaches arts and entertainment management — is nominated in the Contemporary Christian/Gospel Album of the Year category.

Burrows said this year's slew of nominations was welcome news but not unexpected.

"I'm not surprised at all, actually," he said. "We've had people win them before.

"I've been watching the careers of some of these alumni and what they're doing everywhere from New York City and Toronto and other places, and know it's a matter of time before they get the kind of recognition that they deserve."

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VANCOUVERING

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VANCOUVER TRENDING

Amy Logan
For Metro | Vancouver

Tattooed and waxed-coated, today's moto-culture aficionados are attuned to classic fashion and maximum thrill-seeking.

Vancouver's proximity to top-notch riding areas, surrounded by mountains, lakes, and forested roads makes it a prime location for riders.

Mike Babiarz, a local filmmaker, photographer and enduro rider, is deep into the culture. His interest began five years ago when he started spending a lot of time on Vancouver's Columbia block where his girlfriend was starting up Duchesse Vintage.

Next door was The Shop, a hub for motorcycle culture where riders came to meet up, drink coffee, and talk bikes.

"That's what got me into it. I wanted to ride with the pack into the mountains and far away," he said. He'd soon bought himself a 1976 Yamaha XT500, and "from day one, I was hooked."

Around town, The Shop is still a central gathering place for motorcycle fans.

They also have an annual Spit N Shine where they raffle off a bike.

Babiarz is part of Filthmode, a motorcycle club dedicated to "getting out in the woods with friends on old thumper motorcycles, specifically the XT500, " he said.

Babiarz sums up the appeal of motorcycle culture: "Riding far away from the city to explore B.C.'s wilderness with your friends is as good as it gets."

Nemesis Coffee more friend than foe

FOOD NOTES

Espresso options and a unique menu set shop apart

Abby Wiseman
For Metro

Nemesis coffee can be easily ignored. Indicated by only the symbol of an upside down black heart etched in a neon purple light, the new coffee shop is incognito, but shouldn't be missed.

This place is a coffee snobs dream, where the cashier runs you through varieties of bean they carry based on the variety, where they are roasted and how challenging it was to import them to Vancouver.

Easily overwhelmed, I asked the cashier to recommend the best one for my cappuccino (Onyx espresso for Arkansas). Nemesis (302 W. Hastings St.) is the collective efforts of several young coffee enthusiasts. I spoke with one of the owners, Cole Trepanier, who said the plan was to offer a variety of beans that are rare and wonderful, create a community through events and offer some really interesting food, which it has already accomplished.

From sweet to savoury, the selection of food is interesting, well thought-out and — most importantly — beautiful. Actually, beauty comes in second to taste, and everything I tried had that too.

With my cappuccino, which was the perfect balance of bitter and creamy, I had the lemon and raspberry Loaf ($3.25), the roasted squash and goat cheese scone ($4.75) and the heirloom grits ($12).

I love it when chefs are bold with herbs — making them a feature, rather than an afterthought. The grits were the texture of creamy oatmeal (as they should) and acted as a neutral for the bright salsa verde, intense herbal flavours and earthy mushrooms. For the savoury breakfast lovers out there — as I am — this is it. Hearty, healthy, layered in textures and deeply satisfying in flavours.

I rounded up my breakfast with the raspberry lemon loaf. Sweet with a raspberry glaze and topped with a candied lemon, this loaf was once again dense on the outside, yet fluffy within. After the grits it was a bit of a shock of sweetness, but nicely balanced with the sour of the lemon. Washed down with a cappuccino and this makes for an excellent treat.

The space itself is in SFU's new building across from Victory Square Park and is encased in glass, perfect for people watching. The interior is the wood finished, cement floored, green ivy look coffee shops have adopted across the city, but what sets it apart is its intention to offer something a little more.

Roasted squash scone, raspberry lemon loaf and the heirloom grits (bottom)
ABBY WISEMAN/FOR METRO

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VANCOUVERING

'Reconciliation Pole' to be raised at UBC

INDIGENOUS STORIES

Piece by James Hart depicts residential school history

Cara McKenna
For Metro

A unique totem pole soon to be raised in Vancouver tells a story about Canada's residential school system, while memorializing the thousands of Indigenous children who died while in attendance.

The redcedar pole shaped by master Haida carver James Hart (7idansuu) will be installed as a permanent fixture at the University of British Columbia on Saturday, April 1.

It's being called the "Reconciliation Pole" in an effort to remember the experiences of those affected while looking towards the future.

Hart said carving the piece — which features a depiction of the residential school his grandfather attended — was difficult at times, but he also loved creating it.

"We need to pay attention to the past and work together on a brighter future," Hart said in a statement.

"My hope for the pole is that it moves people to learn more about the history of residential schools and to understand their responsibility to reconciliation."

Thousands of copper nails were hammered into the pole by survivors of the residential school system, their families and others, to honour all the children who didn't survive.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada estimated at least 6,000 died while attending the church-run facilities, while an estimated total of 150,000 were taken from their homes and placed into the schools as part of an assimilative government effort that ran from the 1800s until 1996.

While they were there, children were forbidden to practice their culture, and many were also abused physically and sexually.

Hart's totem depicts a "before, during and after" of residential schools, from the bottom to the top, with the final piece being an eagle as a symbol of togetherness and determination.

It will be the second pole by Hart to be raised at the university, as one already stands outside the Museum of Anthropology.

UBC president Santa Ono said in a release that he is honoured to have the pole on campus. It was jointly commissioned by the university and the Audain Foundation.

"This pole reflects UBC's commitment to provide continued education and awareness about the Indian residential school system and the steps we must take to move forward together," he said.

The pole will face the future site of the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre, which is expected to open on campus later this year.

A pole-raising ceremony and feast will take place at UBC at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Master Haida carver James Hart carves a reconciliation pole from the bole of a red cedar. The pole tells the story of Canada's residential school system and will be unveiled at the University of B.C. on Apr. 1 COURTESY UBC

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Walking 'a tricky line'

SEX ASSAULT

Legal expert weighs in on defence tactics vs. complainant

Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

How far defence lawyers can go in questioning the credibility of a sexual-assault complainant, and how much they were drinking, is a "tricky line," one Halifax expert says.

Wayne MacKay, Dalhousie University law professor, said he felt "disappointment" to see another taxi sexual-assault case in court this week involving Saher Hamdan, less than a month after cabbie Bassam Al-Rawi was acquitted by Judge Gregory Lenehan. The controversial acquittal drew national attention and is being appealed.

"That is troubling, because one would hope that taxis are safe places to be," MacKay said Thursday.

A woman protests in Halifax earlier this month over Judge Gregory Lenehan's decision to find a Halifax taxi driver not guilty in a high-profile sexual assault case. JEFF HARPER/METRO HALIFAX

In Hamdan's case, the 19-year-old passenger testified in court Wednesday the driver rubbed her leg a few times without her consent, reached between her legs to pull a latch and slide back her seat and asked if he could kiss her the evening of July 15, 2016.

Defence lawyer John O'Neill extensively cross-examined the complainant on where her feet were in the cab at different points and said it was a "significant" point whether her leg was on the dashboard as she said in July or propped on the inner side compartment of the door, which she said Wednesday.

Many readers commented on social media that they felt it was also irrelevant O'Neill questioned the woman at length about what she was drinking at the bar, and how much, before getting in the cab.

Even though the public conversation is shifting away from what a woman was drinking or wearing when an alleged assault occurs, MacKay said the defence has a duty to represent their clients to the "fullest extent of the law" while remaining ethical and respectful.

Defence lawyers cannot "unduly push" the law as they try to find inconsistencies or problems with the credibility of a complainant, MacKay said, and must follow modern restrictions like not asking about someone's sexual history.

And although a complainant's general pattern of drinking is a "problematic" line of questioning, MacKay said how much she was drinking before an alleged assault is "fair game."

"That could affect her recollections ... as long as it doesn't cross the line into suggesting she was a drunk or drunk most of the time, which are more of a personality attack," MacKay said. "It's a tricky line."

Although the defence may focus on a complainant's credibility and drinking, MacKay said, it's really important that society focuses on what the accused person did to produce a sexual-assault situation.

WORKPLACE

Mental health help valued by millennials

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Millennials are looking for mental health support at work, according to a new survey from Centennial College and non-profit CivicAction, and more likely than other generations to use these kinds of services.

An Angus Reid survey of 1,521 adults found almost two-thirds of millennials expect to access mental health services at work.

Lindsay Balbirnie, a Centennial College public relations student who worked on the project, said they commissioned the survey to shed light on the mental health issues in the workplace.

"What we wanted to do was kind of draw the attention to the employers who would be hiring," she said.

Sarah Harris, communications director for CivicAction, said many millennials are in "a big transition point" at the beginning of their careers, which can be tough.

JESSICA ANDREWS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Praying' polar bear stuns photographer

Jessica Andrews was scanning through dozens of photos she took of a polar bear roaming around her backyard when she came across one that stopped her in her tracks. The large animal was squatting beneath a white cross, its paws together and raised skyward as it looked up in a seemingly reverential pose.

"When I started to go through to edit them, oh my God, I was like, 'Holy crap, he's praying!'" the 22-year-old said from her home in Wesleyville, Newfoundland. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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FOCUS ON FAMINE

DAY 5: Nigeria

Women and young girls wash clothes while others collect water in one of the hosting communities for internally displaced people in Maiduguri, Nigeria. Women and children have suffered most from the Boko Haram insurgency. Many of them are suffering from food insecurity and a lack of clean water and medical care. GETTY IMAGES

Situation not 'unsolvable'

United Nations warns that more than five million people in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe are facing a food emergency

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

The trip was meant to instill some hope in an otherwise dire environment. Instead, it left Nene Akinten with serious concerns about the future.

"It was a very bad situation, but I could tell it was going to get worse," said Akinten, an Oakville resident originally from Nigeria.

Last year she teamed up with members of Relief International Nigeria Women in Diaspora to collect donations for the country's internally displaced people. With her three kids, they visited four camps and spent days tutoring children and interacting with people who had fled both the Boko Haram violence and starvation.

It was a "gloomy" experience, said Akinten. Malnutrition was rampant. Subsisting on donations, no one could afford three meals a day. She heard people were already dying from lack of food in the northeastern states.

Now her fears have been confirmed. The United Nations has warned over five million people in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe face a food emergency, and famine could break out by June. Insecurity is a big part of the problem, as close to two million residents have been forced out of their households and can no longer work on farming.

"If you don't die from hunger then these Boko Haram people will kill you. It's crazy," said Mustapha Daodu, an Edmonton-based reggae musician. Some of his family members still live in Borno, and he regularly sends money to support them.

"I'm really worried this whole famine will spread to the rest of the country very soon," he added.

Katherine Clark, who recently returned from a four-month assignment with Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in northeast Nigeria, said the conflict has damaged infrastructure and made it difficult for people to access humanitarian aid.

"These aren't unsolvable problems," she said. "I don't think anybody should really go hungry in the world today."

Nene Akinten, centre in green, visited four camps last year as part of an effort to help those affected by food shortages in northeast Nigeria. CONTRIBUTED

BY THE NUMBERS | FAMINE IN NIGERIA

$99.9 million
Total funds raised so far

$1.1 billion
Funds required to avert a famine

5.1 million
The number of people who are currently food insecure in northeastern Nigeria

50,000
Number of people predicted to be suffering from famine by June

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Nigerian-Canadians across the country are leading efforts to collect funds.

- **Relief International Nigeria Women in Diaspora** continues to co-ordinate relief efforts for those affected by the food shortage. Contact akintanfamily@gmail.com for more information.
- **Action Against Hunger** runs emergency food and nutrition programs in northern Nigeria and other countries facing famine. More at actioncontrelafaim.ca
- **MSF-Canada** provides medical and humanitarian assistance to people in the four states and other parts of northern Nigeria. More at msf.ca
- **World Vision** is the biggest implementing partner of the World Food Program in East Africa. Private donations can be made at worldvision.ca

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Metro is chronicling the story through the lens of immigrants from the affected countries, with a focus on how people can get involved.

Monday Vicky Mochama on how Canada can step up its interventions.

Tuesday Focus on Somalia, and how this could be worse than 2011.

Wednesday Yemen, and the role of war in the ongoing famine.

Thursday The situation in South Sudan, the world's youngest country.

Friday Nigeria, with views from diaspora members and a local expat.

READ THIS SERIES FROM THE BEGINNING
metronews.ca

U.S. President Donald Trump reacts with Secretary Tom Price and Vice President Mike Pence after Republicans abruptly pulled their health-care bill from the House floor on March 24. GETTY IMAGES

Republican name game

Those on the right seem to think Trump is doing fine

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
From the U.S.

It was revealed, as U.S. President Donald Trump's kindergarten collage of a healthcare bill collapsed last week under the warm reception of a toenail-clippings sandwich, that many Trump voters have an unusual malady.

They cannot comprehend that one bill could have two names. Many, upon hearing that the Republicans were going to repeal the Affordable Care Act and strip them of access to expanded Medicaid last week, balked. You see, they thought it was Obamacare that was supposed to get the heaveho. They didn't realize they were the same thing.

Let's give a round of applause for Fox News. The natural home of the Republican party and anti-Obamacare sentiment. The network synonymous with sexual assault lawsuits might be viewed among some Canadians as an unfortunate quirk of the U.S. media landscape, a bit of discolouring on an otherwise perfectly serviceable dress.

It is not.

Or rather, Fox News is the acid spew that threatens to ruin the entire thing: It is the most-watched news network in the U.S., and growing. The Los Angeles Times reported in late December that year-end numbers showed that "Fox News Channel was the most-watched network in all of cable with an average of 2.43 million viewers in prime time, up 36 per cent over last year."

Certainly, there's a distinction to be made between the thousands of local news reporters and programs, and the national news reporting teams, and people like Bill O'Reilly, the grubby-faced Fox News star.

But it is O'Reilly's brand of ... loyalty, to use Trump's favourite word, that currently characterizes the American right. This week, the president faced the kind of approval ratings you'd reserve mostly for people who don't pick up after their dogs: 36 per cent by March 24, according to Gallup.

Among Republicans, however, his support is soaring around the 90 per cent mark, down only 5 per cent week-to-week after the health-care bill flopped.

To recap: The president with an historically low overall approval rating is doing just fine, according to his base, according to polls. Certainly, we know enough at this point not to take polling at the same face value that you reserve for your tarot cards, but the sentiment — that some Trump voters believe he's doing a good job, and everything wrong in his first few months is someone else's fault — has been borne out by reporting. When radio-God-among-us Tom Ashbrook took his call-in show to Miami in mid-March, an older man who voted for Trump put it this way: "If (the democrats) allow him to do what he has in mind, he may be one of the best presidents in terms of bringing the economy back like it's supposed to be, that we've ever had."

Meanwhile, Breitbart News is gunning for Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, publishing every bad bit of news they can find on the GOP bill under the banner of "Ryancare."

At this rate, Trump might end up becoming the only president ever impeached, whilst entirely innocent. According to some.

Global digest

GERMANY

Far-right urges supporters to infiltrate police

A far-right party is urging its supporters to join the police force in the German state of Saxony to obtain information about migrants accused of committing crimes.

SYRIA

Number of Syrian refugees tops 5 million mark

The number of Syrians who have fled their country has surpassed the 5-million mark, the UNHCR said Thursday. A year ago at Geneva conference participating countries pledged to "resettle and facilitate pathways for 500,000 refugees" from Syria.

UNITED STATES

Judge extends temporary order

A U.S. judge in Hawaii is keeping U.S. President Donald Trump's travel ban on hold while the state's lawsuit works its way through the courts.

Pentagon gets OK for more aggressive airstrikes

U.S. President Donald Trump has granted the U.S. military more authority to go after al-Qaida linked militants in Somalia, approving a Pentagon request to allow more aggressive airstrikes,

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Two arrested over nightclub shooting

CINCINNATI

Violence-prone club closing for good on Friday

Two men, one hospitalized in critical condition with gunshot wounds, have been arrested in connection with a nightclub gunbattle that killed one person and injured 16 others, police said on Thursday.

The men face murder charges, with more charges against them expected, police Chief Eliot Isaac said. At least three guns were inside the club, and more arrests are possible following the "senseless shooting," he said.

Police estimate 200 people were inside the Cameo club near the Ohio River east of downtown Cincinnati early Sunday when a dispute escalated into a gunfight in which more than 20 shots were fired. O'Bryan Spikes, who was 27 years old, died from a gunshot to the chest, authorities said.

Cincinnati Police Chief Eliot Isaac and Mayor John Cranley, second from left, announce the arrest of two men in connection to the Cameo nightclub shooting. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cornell Beckley was apprehended Thursday, while Deondre Davis remained hospitalized with gunshot wounds from early Sunday, Isaac said. Beckley, 27, and Davis, 29, were in custody and couldn't be reached for comment.

"The vast majority of people shot in this incident were true innocent bystanders," said Mayor John Cranley who attended a news conference with Isaac to discuss the arrests.

The venue's operator said Cameo had planned to move out in May because of the landlord's planned sale of the property but will instead close its doors for good on Friday. City officials say the club was the scene of other violence in recent years, including a shooting inside on New Year's Day 2015 and another shooting in the parking lot.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

150 WAYS of looking at Canada

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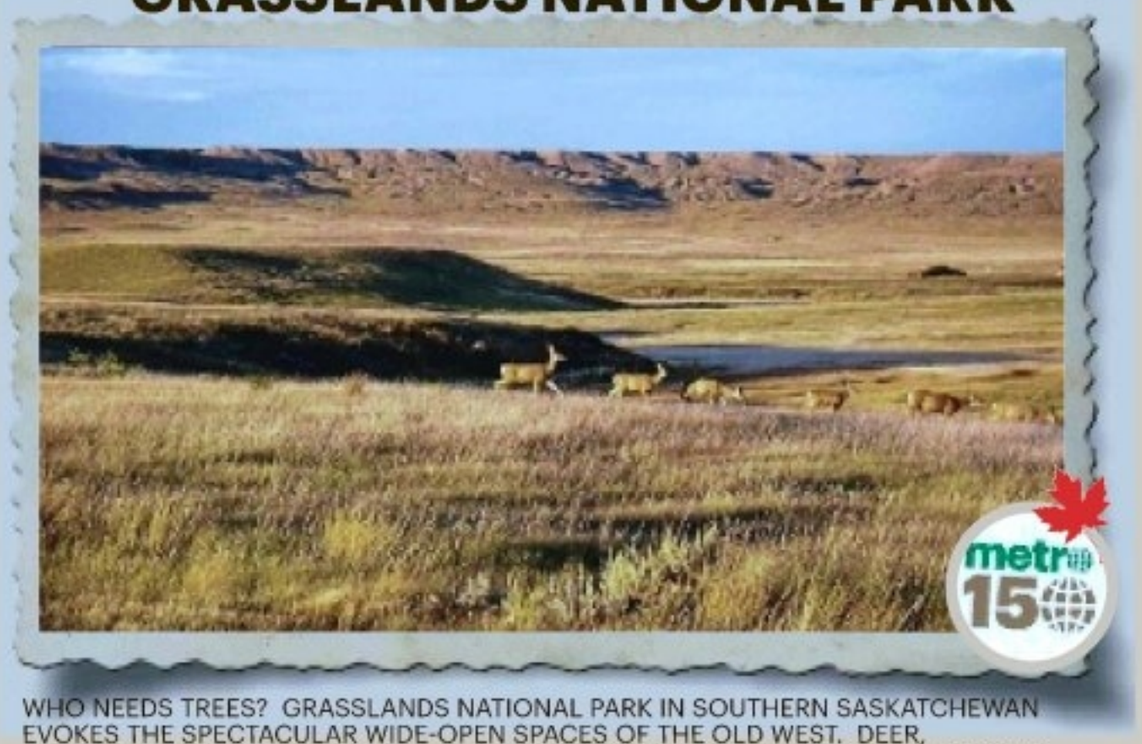
GRASSLANDS NATIONAL PARK



WHO NEEDS TREES? GRASSLANDS NATIONAL PARK IN SOUTHERN SASKATCHEWAN EVOKES THE SPECTACULAR WIDE-OPEN SPACES OF THE OLD WEST. DEER, ANTELOPE AND BISON ROAM FREE, AND THERE ARE RATTLESNAKE WARNING SIGNS (OK, THEY DIDN'T HAVE THOSE IN PIONEER DAYS). **GREG PETZOLD**

SEND US YOUR POSTCARD

Each day until July 1, Metro will feature one reader's postcard in our editions across the country, on Metronews.ca and our 150postcards Instagram page. Get involved by sending us a photo of your favourite place in Canada along with 25 to 50 words about why that place is special to you. Email us at **scene@metronews.ca** or post to Instagram or Twitter with the hashtag **#150postcards**.

McDonald's says it will swap frozen beef patties for fresh ones in its Quarter Pounder burgers by sometime in 2018 at most of its U.S. locations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fresh beef coming to McDonald's

FOOD

Chain will begin to offer option in 2018 at U.S. stores

Coming soon to McDonald's: Fresh beef.

The fast food giant said Thursday that it will swap frozen beef patties for fresh ones in its Quarter Pounder burgers by sometime next year at most of its U.S. locations. It's a major change for McDonald's, which has relied on frozen beef for more than 40 years. Employees will cook up the never-frozen beef on a grill when burgers are ordered.

"It's a really hot, juicy burger," said McDonald's USA President Chris Kempczinski.

Fresh beef has been the biggest selling point at rival Wendy's. Yet there are larger forces at work that have prompted other menu changes at McDonald's, known for decades more for the billions of people served than its culinary choices. The world's largest hamburger chain has been trying to improve its image as more people shun processed foods.

"Fresh, just as a word and a concept, still carries so much weight for customers," said Robert Byrne, the senior manager of consumer insights at Technomic, a food industry market research firm. He believes the move to fresh beef will likely drive more people to the Golden Arches and help boost its image slightly.

Big Macs and other hamburgers will still be made with frozen beef. But Kempczinski said McDonald's is open to making changes to more of its menu items.

While the announcement drew wide attention, McDonald's shares were little changed Thursday, up less than 1 per cent to close at $129.32.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAWSUIT

Airbus allegedly negligent in Halifax crash

Airbus's negligence contributed to a crash landing at Halifax Stanfield International Airport two years ago, Air Canada claims in a lawsuit against the French aircraft manufacturer.

In a statement of claim filed in Nova Scotia Supreme Court, Air Canada said Airbus SAS failed to identify shortcomings of the Airbus 320. The document said it did not advise that in certain conditions, the plane's flight path angle could be affected by external forces. It also claims Airbus failed to incorporate a warning system to alert pilots to a deviation from the planned flight path.

"(Airbus) failed to provide adequate and/or accurate information as to how pilots should correct a deviation in the flight path in circumstances where manual intervention was required," the March 28 claim said.

"(Airbus) failed to provide adequate and/or accurate information.
Air Canada statement of claim

None of the allegations have been proven.

The statement of claim does not specify an amount for damages, but says: "(Air Canada) pleads that (Airbus) was negligent and that its negligence caused or contributed to the damages claimed."

"Damages claimed herein include the damage sustained by the aircraft and other expenses related to the subject incident," it said.

Airbus did not return a request for comment Thursday and has not filed a statement of defence. Air Canada declined to comment.

Flight 624 hit the ground about 200 metres short of runway 05 shortly after midnight on March 29, 2015, as it approached in gusty winds and heavy snowfall. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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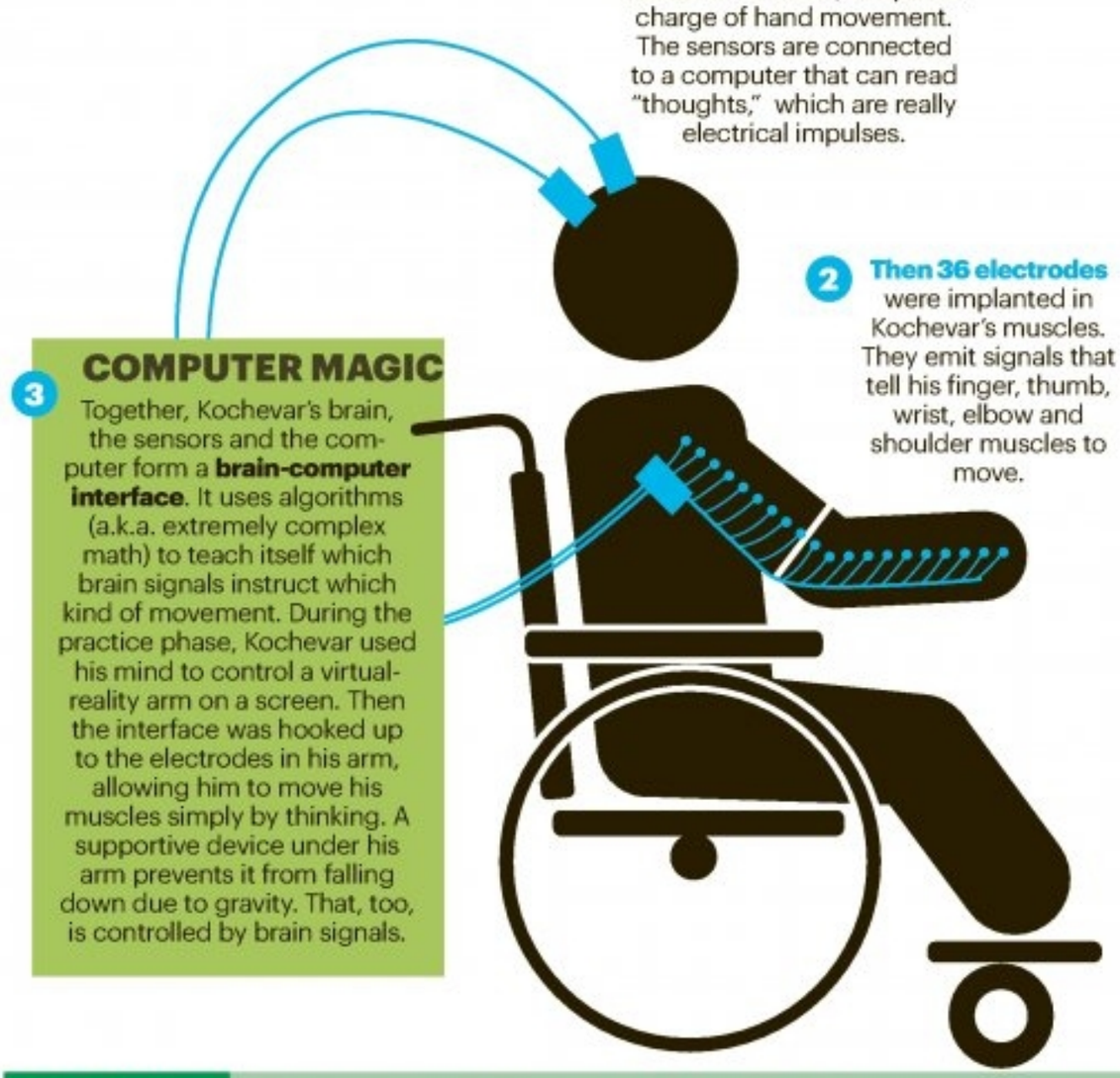
metro SCIENCE
Your essential science news

Roaring back? Two credible sightings have scientists out looking for the Tasmanian tiger, believed extinct since 1936

DECODED by Genna Buck and Andrés Plana

MOVING HIS HAND WITH HIS MIND

Eight years ago, Bill Kochevar's bicycle collided with the back of a mail truck and his life changed forever. He was paralyzed from the tops of his shoulders down. But now his hand can reach and grasp again. He can feed himself and sip a cup of coffee. And he does it exactly the same way able-bodied people do: Intuitively, just by thinking about it.



1 Kochevar had surgery to place **electrical sensors** in the **motor cortex** of his brain, the part in charge of hand movement. The sensors are connected to a computer that can read "thoughts," which are really electrical impulses.

2 **Then 36 electrodes** were implanted in Kochevar's muscles. They emit signals that tell his finger, thumb, wrist, elbow and shoulder muscles to move.

3 **COMPUTER MAGIC**

Together, Kochevar's brain, the sensors and the computer form a **brain-computer interface**. It uses algorithms (a.k.a. extremely complex math) to teach itself which brain signals instruct which kind of movement. During the practice phase, Kochevar used his mind to control a virtual-reality arm on a screen. Then the interface was hooked up to the electrodes in his arm, allowing him to move his muscles simply by thinking. A supportive device under his arm prevents it from falling down due to gravity. That, too, is controlled by brain signals.

REACHING FOR THE FUTURE

See videos of Bill's bionic hand at metronews.ca

This one-person study, published this week in the journal The Lancet, is the first time brain sensors and muscle electrodes have been used at the same time to restore reaching and grasping movements to a person with complete paralysis. The technology is not ready for use outside the lab, but that hasn't quelled Kochevar's enthusiasm. He said, **"I'm still wowed every time I do something. I ate a pretzel. I drank water."**

metro Your essential daily news

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FINDINGS
Your week in science

PLAYING CHICKEN WITH JUPITER

It's name is BeeZed, and it's one gutsy little asteroid. A new University of Western Ontario study found the object is orbiting the sun in the opposite direction of other asteroids in its neighbourhood (picture a car driving the wrong way down the highway, with 6,000 cars coming in the other direction), and its path takes it very close to Jupiter. But it hasn't collided because it's thrown off, thankfully, by the giant planet's gravity.

SOUND SMART

DEFINITION
Epigenetics is the study of how genes are switched on and off. You can't change the genetic code you inherited from your parents. But your environment can change how genes are expressed.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE
Carlos's identical twin is a faster runner and has a higher IQ than him. They have the same genetic code, so those differences are probably due to **epigenetics**.

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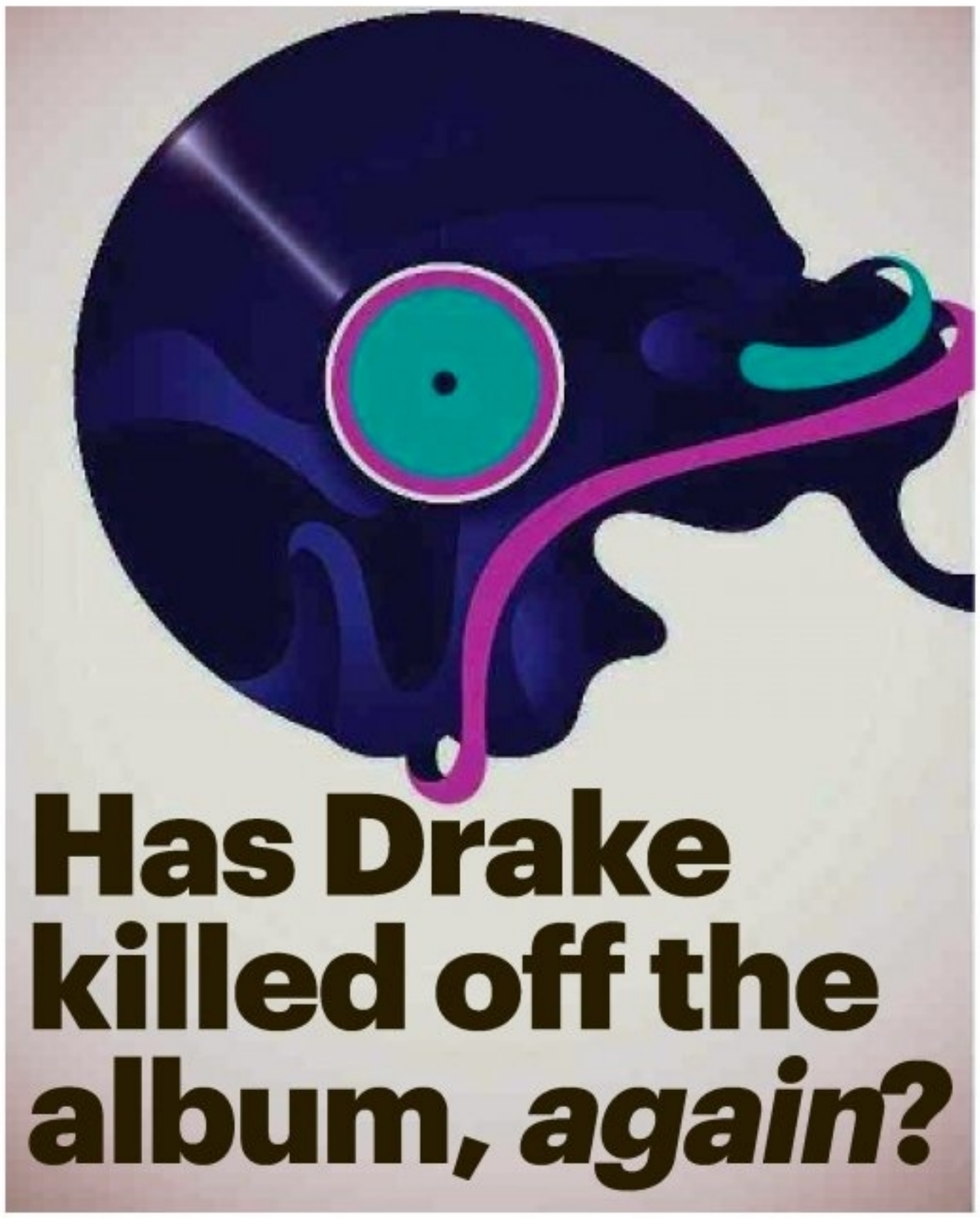
metro WEEKEND
Your essential daily news
MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

ANALYSIS

More Life is the soundtrack to an evolving music industry

Joe Callaghan
For Metro | Toronto



Has Drake killed off the album, *again*?

The great and the good of Canadian music will gather this weekend in the nation's capital and vie for Album of the Year Junos — 25 of them, to be exact.

We shouldn't be surprised that with so many genres to trundle through, it takes two full days for the Juno Awards to run their annual course. The exhaustive list of contenders for various album honours is all the more impressive given the most perplexing question facing today's music industry: do we even know what an album is any more?

The 2017 Junos take place at a time when the country's Billboard Album Chart isn't even topped by an album. Drake's More Life was released March 18 and immediately went in at No. 1.

But Canada's hip hop king insists the 22-track collection is not an album. Nor is it another mixtape (to go with the four of those that he's already released). Instead More Life, fittingly for the streaming era, is a playlist. And it's a hell of a playlist.

More Life is an expansive, expressive journey that won quick critical acclaim and further cemented the Toronto rapper's status as a visionary talent. But through that vision, Drake continues to blur the lines.

"The idea of an album is something that's a relic, right?" says Mark Campbell, a professor in the school of media at Ryerson University and the founding director of Northside Hip Hop Archive, a digital anthology of Canadian hip hop and culture.

"It's something that's not relevant to young people today. But Drake continually pushes up against this idea of an album — his mixtapes, now his playlists. I think it's because he senses that his audience needs to be engaged in a different way. It's really only people like me who are 35 or 40-plus who are actually interested in hearing a cohesive album."

Drake's More Life playlist tops the album charts. GETTY IMAGES

The death of the album has been declared on an all too regular basis since the dawn of digital music. Drake's own 2015 release If You're Reading This It's Too Late was a mixtape that was nominated for a Grammy. Kanye West's The Life of Pablo was "a living, breathing creative expression." Critics pointed to both as signalling the official end of the traditional album.

Last year's industry statistics sum up just how altered the music environment is in the streaming age. In Canada alone, more songs were streamed per day (97M) than were purchased over the entire year (75M.) Total album sales for 2016 (including physical copies, downloads and streams) reached 43.3M but that figure was dwarfed by the 22.3BN total audio streams, according to the in-depth report by BuzzAngle Music.

"The industry didn't really take the album as an artform seriously until the mid 1960s with the Beatles and the Stones and the Summer of Love," Eric Alper, veteran music publicist and analyst, told Metro. "But if you take a look at the superstar artists of today — the Weeknd, Drake, Justin Bieber, Alessia Cara, Shawn Mendes — it's all about the single. It's all about what song are we going to put out now.

It's an environment in which the album as once known by baby boomers and Gen X seems almost quaint. This summer in Canada U2 will kick off a worldwide stadium tour in honour of the 30th anniversary of their flagship album, The Joshua Tree.

But with More Life Drake may also be harking back in his own way — to the golden age of the hip hop mixtape — to stay ahead.

"In one way he's trying to gesture himself forward as someone who is relatable to kids that may have never physically purchased music in their life," says Campbell. "Kids of 17, 18 years old who would never have had the experience of buying a CD."

By calling it a playlist, Drake is branding it as something intimate or personal, Campbell adds.

"When Obama has a playlist on Spotify, it tells you everything we need to know about the era we're living in. People are so detached from each other digitally that we have to find new ways to reconnect. A playlist is a way to do it. Just like the mixtape was."

Alper argues that we shouldn't get so hung up on definitions but embrace the organic meaning of an album and celebrate this era of mass consumption.

"Music has never been more consumed, more talked about at any other time in its history. For $10 I can have access to every single song in recorded history — that's a brilliant thing. So (the album) is whatever the artist wants it to be and it's whatever the fan thinks that it is. We just want to make sure that artists continue to get paid and we have great music at our fingertips."

Brilla: Juno's lack of women a bad sign

MUSIC INDUSTRY

Singer wants to see a better balance in the industry

Alysha Brilla wasn't surprised by the lack of female representation when this year's Juno Awards nominees were announced.

Years ago, the Waterloo, Ont.-based musician and producer decided to conduct an experiment. She carefully tabulated the gender diversity among Juno nominees and found there wasn't much at all, particularly in the technical categories, which were completely dominated by men.

After scrolling through this year's list of contenders, she concluded little has changed.

FOUR

Brilla points to data that shows only four women have won the producer award in the 45 years that Junos have been handed out; the engineer prize has never gone to a woman.

"I don't want to see women take over the industry. I want to see a balance," says Brilla, a two-time Juno nominee for best adult contemporary album.

All album categories only have one female nominee each. Both the engineer and producer of the year categories don't have a single female nominee.

When Brilla raised the issue with Junos brass in the past the response she got shocked her.

Representatives said better diversity at the Junos would only happen if more women became members of the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (CARAS).

"So I went out and did the work. I solicited every woman I knew who was technically qualified — who works in the industry. I asked artist friends, asked production friends and brought back a couple to them."

She waited until the next year to see if her efforts made a difference in the list of Juno nominees. They didn't, she says.

Sara Quin says the conversation motivated her to write letters to about 250 women in the industry. She plans to urge them to pay the CARAS membership fee, vote and "get more involved."

Musician Alysha Brilla. THE CANADIAN PRESS

It's an initiative that sounds familiar to other prominent musicians.

"I did exactly what Sara did — last year," says Amy Millan, a member of Broken Social Scene and Stars.

"I wrote (Sarah) Harmer, Sarah Slean and Jenn Grant and I wrote all these women and said, 'Are you a member of CARAS?' Most of them came back and they said, 'No, because what's the point?' "

Millan doesn't exactly blame the Junos, but she doesn't think it's helping matters either.

She believes the awards show is emblematic of a bigger problem plaguing Canada's music industry and that women aren't getting a fair shake.

Last year, Millan drew attention to a lack of women among the 2016 Juno nominees with the Twitter hashtag #JunosSoMale, a nod to the #OscarsSoWhite movement. It was quickly embraced by other musicians including electro-pop singer Grimes, who is nominated this year for three Junos including alternative album.

Her move also pushed the Junos to respond, with the organization's president saying the Junos are only mirroring the broader music industry.

"We simply reflect what comes to us, what's submitted," says Allan Reid, president of CARAS and the Junos.

Putting the blame on CARAS voters doesn't necessarily make sense either. Overall its membership is 42 per cent female, he notes. Instead, the problem is reflected more clearly in who submits their work to the Junos, Reid argues.

This year, only nine women put their names in for producer of the year among 118 contenders, he says. That's little changed from last year when women represented seven of 119 submissions, either solo or as part of a team.

Winners for the production category are voted on by active members of the Canadian music producer community who are also CARAS members.

Brilla scoffs at the sentiment that women aren't interested in technical work. She believes responsibility lies with the music industry, which she says does little to encourage young women to pursue fields traditionally reserved for men.

"Women aren't making money behind the scenes," she says. "They're often the ones simply fronting the whole operation."

Hill Kourkoutis, a Toronto-based producer, takes a more optimistic outlook on the industry. While she used to frequently encounter people shocked to learn she worked behind a mixing console, she's finding that sentiment is slowly changing.

"There is that stigma to overcome, but that's been experienced in other industries," she says. "It's just a game of catch-up at this point." THE CANADIAN PRESS

The noble, familiar fight of The Zookeeper's Wife

WARTIME DRAMA

Based on a true story, film explores anti-Nazi war efforts

Antonina Zabinski has an idyllic life.

At the Warsaw zoo that she and her husband Jan run, she nurses lion cubs in her home and a young camel dutifully accompanies her as she bicycles on her daily rounds tending to the animals.

All that changes dramatically with the German invasion of Poland and the advent of the Second World War.

Based on a true story, The Zookeeper's Wife chronicles the couple's efforts to rescue Jews from the infamous Warsaw ghetto and to further risk their own lives by housing them secretly in a basement hideout.

"That's why I love animals so much. You look in their eyes and see exactly what's in their hearts," notes Antonina (played by Jessica Chastain).

Certainly, Antonina begins to see the worst in the human beings around her, personified in the form of Lutz Heck (Daniel Bruhl), the chief zoologist for the Nazi regime.

She reluctantly forms an uneasy relationship — one that hints of romance — when Heck nearly uncovers the presence of others in the family home. Inevitably, it causes strains in her marriage.

Director Niki Caro does

That's why I love animals so much. You look in their eyes and see exactly what's in their hearts.

Antonina, played by Jessica Chastain

an able job of capturing the period detail and creating an atmosphere of tension and danger.

Chastain is an appealing protagonist, radiating an aura of determination in the face of uncertainty and adversity — and getting the Polish accent just right.

Johan Heldenbergh plays Jan with a quiet stoicism and strength and the relationship between the two is believable.

The weak link may be the performance of Bruhl as Heck, a character who's more oily than menacing, making him a less-than-persuasive villain.

The film details several key dates in the couple's years-long struggle but their significance won't always be clear to filmgoers without detailed historical knowledge.

History may in fact be the film's biggest challenge in drawing an audience. The period and the monstrous persecution and extermination of Europe's Jews have been covered extensively and memorably in so many other previous films.

While The Zookeeper's Wife is a reasonably accomplished work, it would be difficult to argue that it breaks new ground or offers a fresh perspective on those horrific times.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Zookeeper's Wife stars Jessica Chastain and Johan Heldenbergh and opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

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What's beneath the sexy surface

REVIEW

Casting saves live-action take on manga-anime classic

Anime exemplar Ghost in the Shell was a singular sensation in 1995, boldly anticipating the coming digital world even as it revisited old ideas of human minds inhabiting machine forms.

The new live-action take, starring Scarlett Johansson as a conflicted and butt-kicking cyborg, isn't quite so innovative. The film slavishly revisits not only the original inspiration but such other sci-fi landmarks as Blade Runner and Metropolis, creating an unsettling feeling not unlike the "uncanny valley" effect more common to photorealistic animation.

With Rupert Sanders at the helm, a situation akin to his earlier Snow White and the Huntsman ensues. The picture looks great, with seamless CGI and artful imagery, but the committee-written screenplay is of artificial rather than intelligent design.

Casting saves the movie, notwithstanding the thorny issue of cultural appropriation. Johansson plays a character, known variously as Mira and Major, who was originally drawn as Asian, right back to the 1989 manga that spawned what has become a multimedia franchise.

But talent trumps optics and ScarJo has bona fides to spare: she honed her action chops in The Avengers, rocked alien animus in Under the Skin and clicked a computing mind in She.

Scarlett Johansson stars in Ghost in the Shell. CONTRIBUTED

Kudos, too, for an uncommonly good supporting cast. Juliette Binoche exudes empathy as not-so-mad scientist Dr. Ouelet, who refines the "cerebral salvage" technique that places the surviving brain of fatally injured Mira — victim of a terrorist attack, she's told — into the curvaceous "shell" of super-soldier Major. She'll be joining the terrorist-fighting Section 9 unit of her Asian metropolis, where humans, machines and holograms jostle.

Mira/Major's male foils are macho yet still interesting: Denmark's Pilou Asbaek makes a mean sidekick Batou, despite sporting artificial peepers that regretfully recall Little Orphan Annie; Michael Pitt's brings an Island of Misfit Toys melancholy to his Kuze character, whose subterranean presence and slowly revealed motivations bring needed emotion; and Japanese actor/director "Beat" Takeshi Kitano makes the most of very few words as the unbending Ministry of Defence official who controls Section 9.

All are in service, alas, of a story drawn from an Existentialism 101 course outline, wherein Mira/Major keeps trying to figure out how much of her is human, how much is machine and who's fooling who?

She keeps talking about how she's "the first of her kind," but that sounds even more derivative than it did in 1995. The conceit of a human mind inside of a mechanical body is almost as old as the movies, dating back to the Maria/Maschinenmensch dual character of Fritz Lang's Metropolis, released in 1927.

Mira/Major's government and corporate overlords, of course, would prefer she concentrate more on doing than thinking. When she stops brooding and gets clobbering, she does so in spectacular fashion, taking on creeps that include a brain-sucking mechanical geisha and a humungous robot spider.

She does it all while dressed in a nude bodysuit that makes her look for all the world like a giant unclothed Barbie doll, an unnecessary concession to series fidelity. Then as now, it's about nothing more than fanboy titillation.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Your essential daily news

Pacific Dawn passengers on "cruise to nowhere" after storm cancels all stops

The *chill* of the chase

One of the most spectacular routes in the world, Icefields Parkway winds its way through two national parks. ISTOCK

ADVENTURE

A man's race to see all 46 parks in Canada's 150th year

John Honderich
For Metro Canada

Winter, as it turns out, is a spectacular time to visit Canada's national parks.

You just have to be prepared to navigate through periodic snow blasts, gale force winds, an avalanche warning here and there, and icy roads. But the rewards are nothing short of breathtaking, particularly in the mountains.

And heck, we are the North. Winter is us, part of our soul. Which is why I decided to visit 10 parks this winter as part of my yearlong odyssey to visit (hopefully) all 46 of Canada's national parks and reserves in honour of our country's 150th birthday.

My itinerary took me to four provinces — Alberta, British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario. My criteria were parks that offered either breathtaking vistas, superb cross-country skiing, intriguing animal experiments (bison breeding) or rugged new terrain.

I was never disappointed, except the one time I was not able to track down the bison herd in Elk Island National Park, just outside Edmonton. It turned out the herd had been shepherded to a remote corner of this postage stamp-sized park. So I had to make do with the stuffed baby bison in the visitors' centre.

The Rocky Mountains in winter have always been an amazing lure, partly for the skiing but mostly for the dramatic kaleidoscope of vistas. There is just something about mile after mile of towering snow-clad cedar forests encircling snow-capped mountains. This explains why I decided to start my odyssey in the Alberta Rockies on New Year's.

My first national park was Waterton Lakes, nestled among majestic peaks at the U.S. border, a few hours south of Calgary.

And it was en route to Waterton that I learned my first enduring lesson. Travelling to these parks takes you to unexpected sites, hidden gems and famous place names you simply hadn't anticipated.

The trip to Waterton, for example, along Alberta's stunning Highway 22, led me to Pincher Creek, which just happens to be the birthplace of a former assistant as well as Canada's Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin.

> **The Rocky Mountains in the winter have always been an amazing lure, partly for the skiing but mostly for the dramatic kaleidoscope of vistas.**
> John Honderich

A few kilometres farther along were signs to Crowsnest Pass, a route synonymous in Canadian history with freight rates and mountain slides. I just had to drive through. Later, I would drive through Kicking Horse Pass in Yoho Park and the highest, Rogers Pass, in Glacier National Park. A trifecta of Canadian railway history.

A different surprise came en route to Bruce Peninsula Park, at the northernmost tip of the Niagara escarpment in Ontario. There, in the Georgian Bay town of Wiarton, was a huge statue in honour of Wiarton Willy, Ontario's foremost predictive groundhog.

And driving back from La Mauricie Park along the shores of the mighty Saint-Maurice River in Quebec, I happened upon a museum to native son Jean Chrétien in Shawinigan. It contained all the gifts the former prime minister received while in office. It was closed for the season.

When it comes to majesty, there is still nothing that matches the mountain splendour of the Icefields Parkway in Jasper. On a frigid, minus-30-degree, cloudless day, the mountains seemed almost to explode in full glory.

Indeed that feeling would reoccur during several drives through the four contiguous national parks — Jasper, Banff, Yoho and Kootenay — that form the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site.

Throw in two nearby B.C. parks — Glacier National Park and Mount Revelstoke National Park — and you are left almost breathless by the winter splendour. So, all in all, a good start to my four-season odyssey.

And if I do manage to visit all 46 parks, Parks Canada says I might even get a lifetime pass!

This is one in a series of columns by John Honderich, chairman of the board of Torstar, as he attempts to visit all of Canada's national parks during the country's 150th birthday year.

metro SPORTS

FIFA has proposed a six-team playoff for the final two spots in the World Cup's expanded 48-team tournament lineup, starting in 2026

The fearlessness factor

BASKETBALL

Delivering in the clutch when it matters in the NCAA tourney

It's the closing seconds of a tight game in the NCAA Tournament and the coach needs someone to take a big shot.

Experience helps, as does talent and preparation. There is another variable, too, that can't necessarily be quantified.

"Those kids, they're not afraid of the moment, and they really just rise to the occasion, all those cliches you want to use," North Carolina coach Roy Williams said.

Marcus Paige did it last year for North Carolina with a clutch basket late in the national title game before Villanova's Kris Jenkins knocked down a game-winner. Luke Maye joined the clutch club this year with a jumper with 0.3 seconds to beat Kentucky to get the Tar Heels back to the Final Four .

Williams drills his players through those situations in practice every day. But it's one thing for someone to hit a shot on the practice court.

Pressure is magnified under the bright lights of the NCAAs. These are situations in which intangibles may set clutch players apart. Wisconsin pulled off a memorable victory after beating overall top seed and defending national champion Villanova in the second round on a game-winning reverse layup by Nigel Hayes with 12 seconds left. Hayes and guard Bronson Koenig were the headliners of a savvy senior class that produced in crunch time.

"And then you've got a little lucky too once in a while," coach Greg Gard said before the regional semifinals. "You've got to make shots at the right time, get a stop at the right time, one little thing here or there tips the scales in a team's direction."

The Badgers experienced heartbreak the next game, when Chris Chiozza hit a buzzer-beating 3 in overtime on a play that started with 4 seconds left.

"But in my off night when I'm in the gym or something I might do that two or three times the whole time I'm in there, and it normally doesn't go in," Chiozza said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FINAL FOUR

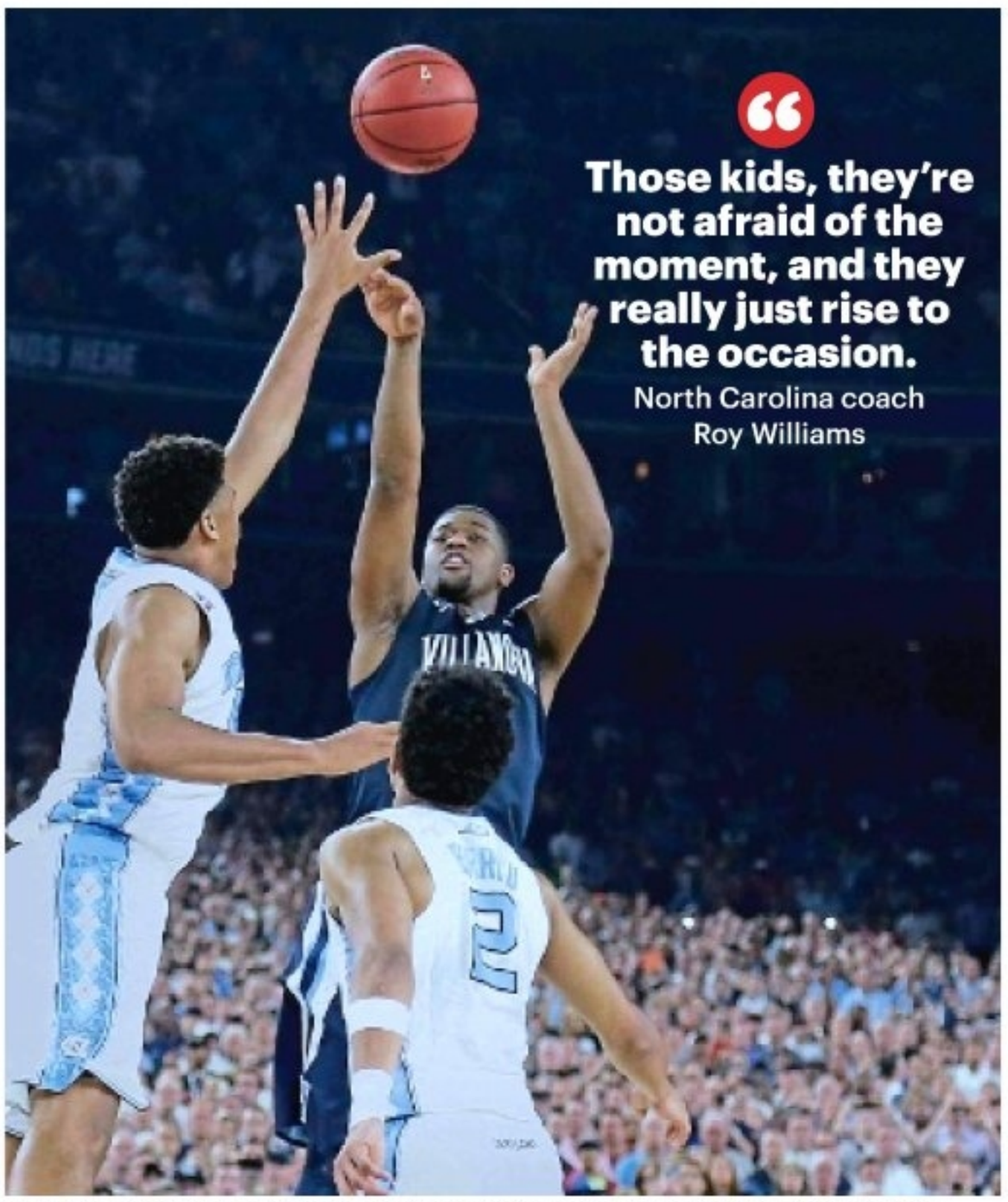
Saturday at Glendale, Ariz.

- Gonzaga vs. South Carolina, 6:09 p.m.
- North Carolina vs. Oregon, 8:49 p.m.

*All times Eastern

Oregon player Dillon Brooks of Mississauga, Ont.

GETTY IMAGES



Kris Jenkins' buzzer beater against North Carolina won Villanova the 2016 NCAA men's basketball championship. STREETER LECKA/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Bulls spoil LeBron's party

Nikola Mirotic tied season highs with 28 points and six 3-pointers, Jimmy Butler scored 25, and the Chicago Bulls beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 99-93 on a night when LeBron James moved into seventh place on the NBA's career scoring list.

James moved past Shaquille O'Neal, with 26 points. But the big night by the four-time MVP couldn't prevent the Cavaliers from losing their third straight game. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pacers re-sign Stephenson

The Indiana Pacers are bringing back Lance Stephenson.

More than two years after the brash 6-foot-5 guard left in free agency, the Pacers re-signed Stephenson on Thursday — just in time to fill a gaping hole as they try to make a final playoff push.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Bathroom bill' deal key to N. Carolina hosting events

Basketball-mad North Carolina is hoping its move to roll back its "bathroom bill" will help it avoid another costly hit when the NCAA selects four years of championship sites for a variety of sports.

College athletics' governing body said that it is deciding this week on locations for tournaments through the spring of 2022 and that it wouldn't award any to North Carolina if the law known as House Bill 2 was still on the books.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amazing March leads Hadwin to the Masters

GOLF

First time at Augusta for B.C. native will be his honeymoon

The whirlwind that was March has earned Canadian golfer Adam Hadwin a honeymoon in Georgia.

The 29-year-old from Abbotsford, B.C., captured the Valspar Championship on March 12 for his first career PGA Tour win. Hadwin got married less than two weeks later and Wednesday he and his wife, Jessica, closed on their new house.

But the couple isn't jetting off to an exotic honeymoon destination. Instead, they'll head to Augusta, Ga., where Hadwin will play in his first Masters at Augusta National Golf Club.

"She's probably not as excited as I am," Hadwin said Thursday during a conference call. "I think she would've rather been in Bora Bora right now. "We're both excited, it's going to be a great week. A lot of fun and certainly we're always going to remember the first one."

Hadwin earned his invite to Augusta by winning the Valspar Championship. MIKE LAWRIE/GETTY IMAGES

Hadwin secured the Masters invite with the Valspar Championship victory, along with the US$1.134-million winner's cheque. After earning $1.067 million last season, Hadwin has already amassed over $2.5 million in 2017.

He also carded a third-round 59 en route to a second-place finish at the CareerBuilder Challenge in January. Hadwin stands fifth in the FedEX Cup standings with 1,140 points and has four top-10 finishes in 11 events this year.

"I think I'm still figuring out what's going on, I'm a little bit lost," Hadwin said. "Certainly, all very good things happening, a lot of great things in life right now.

"But certainly it's been quite a whirlwind last month."

However, there's nothing quite like preparing for a first-ever appearance at the Masters to provide much-needed focus and perspective.

"If I can't get up and get ready for that I don't know what event I'll be able to do that for," Hadwin said. "I think now everything is settled, and I can really start to focus my energy on next week."

Hadwin plans to leave for Augusta on Sunday and has a practice round scheduled for Tuesday with PGA Tour veteran Mike Weir of Bright's Grove, Ont. In '03, Weir became the first — and only — Canadian to win golf's most prestigious major.

"I haven't started picking Mike's brain yet," Hadwin said. "I don't want to wear him out before we actually play."

And the Masters is a tournament Hadwin has won 1,000 times — in his head.

"I've made many a putt at sunset to win the Masters while practising," he said. "But I'm not approaching it any differently than I have any tournament all year.

"I'm going there with confidence. I've had success against great fields. It's just a matter of preparing the best I can and seeing where my game stacks up against the best players."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN HOUSTON

Rickie Fowler shot an 8-under 64 for a one-shot lead over Sung Kang after the first round of the Houston Open on Thursday.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Chan sits in third after men's short program

Canada's Patrick Chan finished third in the men's short program at the world figure skating championships.

The three-time world champion posted a score of 102.13. Defending champion Javier Fernandez of Spain scored 109.05, while Japan's Shoma Uno (104.86) was second. In the pairs competition, Canada's Eric Radford and Meagan Duhamel — two-time world champs — held on to finish a disappointing seventh place.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Poulin to captain Canada

Marie-Philip Poulin has been named Canada's captain for the 2017 women's world hockey championship.

Haley Irwin, Brianne Jenner and Natalie Spooner will rotate as alternate captains for the tournament that Canada kicks off Friday against the defending champion U.S.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Habs easily tame Panthers to secure postseason spot

Paul Byron had two goals and Brendan Gallagher scored and added three assists as the Montreal Canadiens defeated the visiting Florida Panthers 6-2 on Thursday to clinch a playoff spot with five games lft in their regular season.

Tomas Plekanec, Max Pacioretty and Phillip Danault also scored for Montreal (44-24-9). Carey Price made 29 saves for his 36th victory of the season. The Canadiens have made the post-season in for of the last five years.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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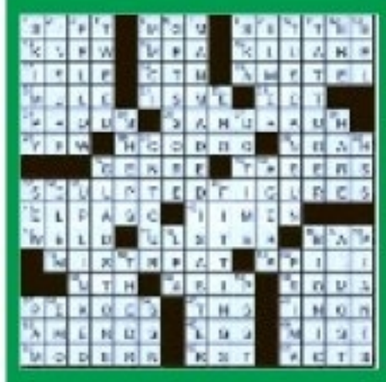

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Decadent Skillet S'mores

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Who needs a campfire when you can whip up s'mores in your kitchen? Dare we say they best their summer competition?

Ready in 15 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 2 bags of dark chocolate chips
- 17 marshmallows, cut in half
- 1 box of graham crackers

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350.

2. In a 9-inch, ovenproof skillet, pour the chocolate chips in an even layer across the bottom. Arrange the marshmallow halves along the top, covering all the chips.

3. Bake in the oven for 10 minutes, or until marshmallows are lightly browned and chocolate is melted. Be careful not to over bake the chocolate.

4. Serve with stacks of graham crackers to dip and enjoy.

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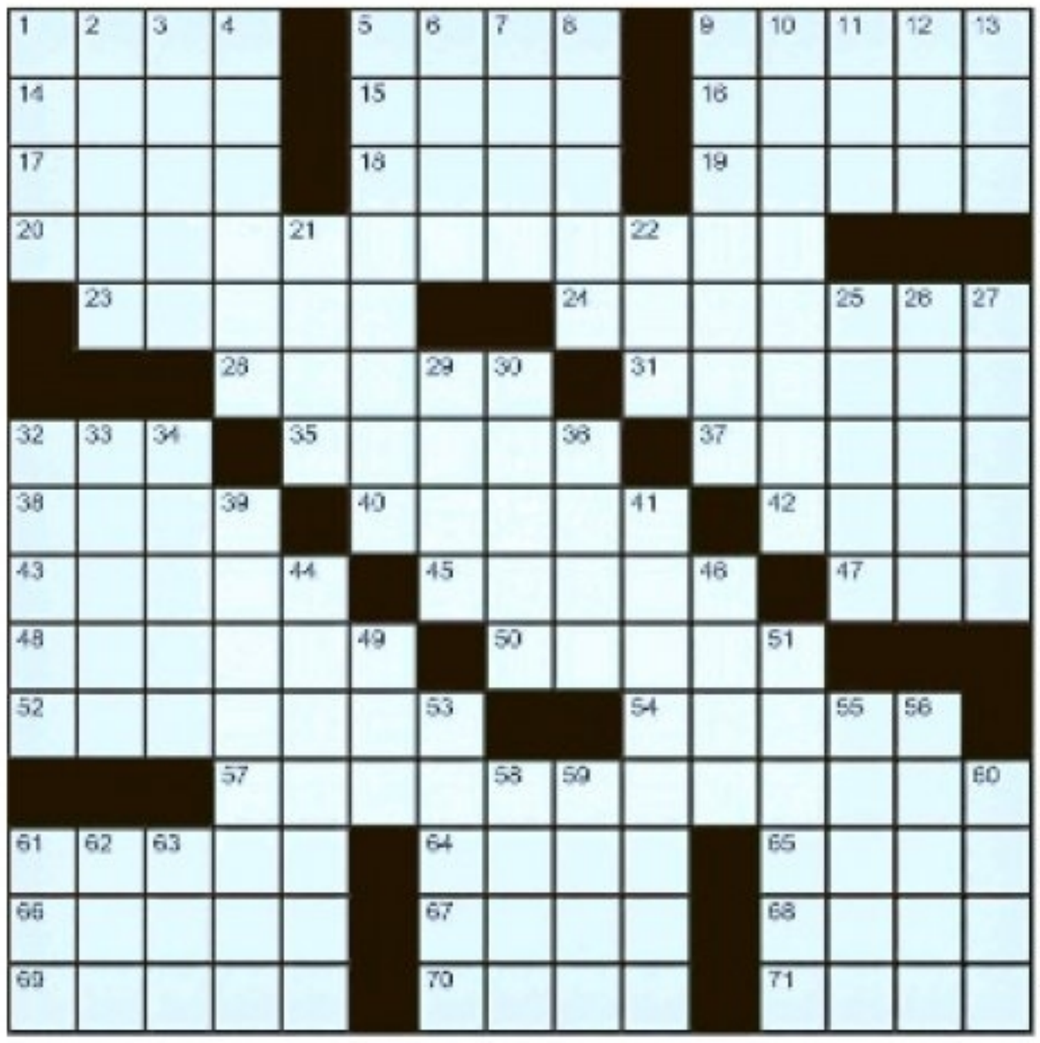
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. "You __ Meant for Me" by Jewel
5. British raincoats, fun-style
9. Short romance
14. Figure skating jump
15. Aid and __
16. "American Pie" embankment
17. Aggravate
18. Former musical comedy on FOX
19. Up to now: 2 wds.
20. Performance centre in Montreal: 3 mots
23. Showbiz news show hosted by Mario Lopez
24. __ Party of Canada
28. River sediments
31. Switzerland city
32. Sugar amt.
35. Roman goddess of agriculture
37. Wallet item, __ card
38. Gets by, just barely
40. One with a pad and paper
42. Food Network creation
43. Sacred temple practices
45. Ornamental edging of loops
47. Anonymous surname
48. Angel
50. Taboos
52. "Cool It Now" by New __
54. "Boo! Boo!"
57. 'B' of CBC
61. Sleeping problem
64. Jam-in together
65. "Hop __ __!" (Get moving)
66. Pop into the freezer
67. Uncommon
68. Root that's edible
69. Places at a slant
70. __ and flows
71. Robin Colcord's portrayer on "Cheers", Roger __

DOWN
1. __ speed, as on "Star Trek"
2. Banish
3. Put up your feet and stay awhile
4. Chooses a candidate
5. Gulf of St. Lawrence archipelago, __ Islands
6. 'Obtain' suffix
7. So-so grades
8. Pilfer
9. __ truck
10. Diminished
11. "Poison __" by The Coasters
12. Maiden name word preceder
13. Become
21. Mr. Stoltz of movies
22. Tractor trailer
25. Raise one's paddle at the auction another time
26. Notice/warning, in Spain
27. Workshop machine
29. French for 'too much'
30. __ __ stone (Unchangeable)
32. Succinct
33. Went to Whistler
34. Agar-holding lab dish
36. Like dry Spanish wine
39. Car safety device
41. Glace Bay, Nova Scotia born stand-up comedian: 2 wds.
44. Coils
46. Pump parts
49. Which person, wondered the owl?
51. Jet-__ (World traveller)
53. Mother-of-pearl
55. __ __ Janeiro
56. Like a nasty comment
58. Dullsville
59. Atkins = Low-__ diet
60. Ronny & The Daytonas cars
61. Take steps
62. __ Beta Kappa
63. Naught

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You're full of big ideas today because you're in such a positive frame of mind. Enjoy discussions with siblings, neighbors and relatives. (They will be impressed.)

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Business and commerce are favoured today, because you are in a moneymaking frame of mind. Furthermore, you're not afraid to entertain ambitious ideas. Good stuff!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Today the Moon is in your sign and you feel content and happy. It's a good day for business. It's also a good day to enjoy family activities at home.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Today you will prefer to work behind the scenes or perhaps alone. It's also a good day to research and look for answers to old problems.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Relationships with friends and group members will be upbeat and positive today. Make an effort to be sociable and friendly, because you are the one who will get a pleasant payoff.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You make a great impression on bosses and VIPs today. In fact, work-related travel or talking to people from other cultures is likely for some of you.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Do something different today. Shake up your routine. You have an urge for adventure and you also want to learn something new. Go someplace you have never been before

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is a good day to discuss shared property and issues related to insurance, wills, inheritances and anything that you own jointly with others. Things will likely go in your favor.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You have to go more than halfway when dealing with others today, because the Moon is opposite your sign. This simply requires some tolerance, patience and co-operation.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Do something to get better organized today. Make your workstation or where you live a bit neater. Tidy things up.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a playful, fun-loving day. It's also a good date day. Plan to have fun activities with children, friends and loved ones. Sporting events particularly will appeal.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You might want to cocoon at home today and just relax. Today pleasure appeals more than work — that's for sure. Take some time off just for yourself, because you deserve it.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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THE STORY OF US

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